THE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

Appointed to enquire into the

FRAUDS and ABUSES

Committed in the

VICTUALLING

Her Majesty's Navy:

WITH THE

RESOLUTIONS

AND

ORDERS

OF THE

House of Commons

THEREUPON.

LONDON:

Printed for *Samuel Keble* at the *Turk's Head* in *Fleetstreet*, and *Henry Clements* at the *Half-Moon* in S. *Paul's* Church-yard.

MDCCX.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Martis 27. die Feb. 1710.

Ordered, That the Report from the Committee, appointed to enquire into the Frauds and Abuſes committed in the Victualling Her Majeſty's Navy, with the Reſolutions and Orders of this Houſe thereupon, be printed; And that Mr. Speaker do appoint the Printing thereof; And that no other Perſon preſume to print the ſame.

PAUL JODRELL, Cl' Dom' Com'

THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE.

Mercurij 7. *die Feb.* 1710.

MR. *Cæsar* reported from the Committee, to whom it was referred, to enquire into the Abuſes of the Victualling, the Matter, as it appeared to them, and they had directed him to report to the Houſe, which he read in his Place, and afterwards delivered in at the Table; and is as follows, *viz.*

The COMMITTEE, *in order to diſcover the Abuſes and Frauds committed at Her* MAJESTY's *Brew-houſe, called the* Hart's-Horn *Brew-houſe, and likewiſe thoſe committed by the Contracting-Brewers, examined*

Isaac Howard, a Water-man, who ſaid, That he was employed by Mr. *Cheney*, and Mr. *Draper*, two Surveyors of the Exciſe, ſome Days in *Auguſt* laſt, to obſerve whether any Beer from the *Harts-Horn* Brew-houſe, was put on Board Colliers or Merchant-Ships, or landed fraudulently in other Places.

That during the time he was thus employed, he ſaw One hundred and fifty three Barrels, carried in ſeveral Parcels from the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, to Colliers, Merchant-Ships, and other Places, ſome of which were carried by *Bray*, a Water-man, belonging to the Victualling-Office, the reſt by other Water-men.

Samuel Hill, a Water-man, ſaid, He was employed in the ſame manner, as Mr. *Howard*, and ſaw Forty two Barrels, carried at ſeveral times, from the Queen's Brew-houſe, to Merchant-Ships and Colliers.

It was pretended, that the Beer thus diſpoſed of, was only Petty-Warrant Beer; but upon comparing the Information with the Account of the Iſſues from the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, it appeared to the Committee, to be Sea-Beer, and not Petty-Warrant Beer.

Mr. *John Smith*, Brewer, ſaid, That he has often had Beer from the Queen's Brew-houſe, by the Means of one *Moxley*, a Servant there, at the Rate of Twenty two Shillings *per* Ton.

That he always agreed for the beſt Casks, and has had the Liberty to chooſe them himſelf, as they have lain upon the Key.

That he never paid for bringing any Beer from the Brew-houſe, and knows a great many Colliers were ſupplied with Beer from thence, and they have told him, They could have much cheaper there, than of other Brewers.

He farther ſaid, That he uſed to return old Casks, good for little, which he bought for Ten Shillings *per* Ton, in lieu of the Queen's Casks; That he ſold the Queen's Casks, without Beer, for Twenty eight Shillings, and ſometimes for Forty Shillings *per* Ton, ſo that he had in one Caſe, a Ton of Beer for Four Shillings, which coſt the Queen Three Pounds Ten Shillings; and in the other Caſe, he had a Ton of Beer clear, and Eight Shillings Profit beſides.

Mr. *Nutt*, a Brewer, ſaid, That he has had ſeveral Quantities of Beer from the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, for Twenty two Shillings *per* Ton, and that he has ſold it again to the Queen for Store-Beer, for Forty eight Shillings *per* Ton, he being a Contracting-Brewer. That ſeveral Tons of Casks have been offered to be ſold to him at the Queen's Brew-houſe; and That telling Mr. *Horſington* (Clerk of the Brew-houſe) that he had bought Fourteen Tons of Beer of a Purſer, he ſaid, That it was a very common Thing, for Purſers to ſell the Queen's Beer. He ſaid farther, That Mr. *Gregory Page* was his Partner, and had his proportionable Share in Profit and Loſs, of all Beer that was bought in, or ſold out.

Mr. *Curtis*, a Brewer, ſaid, That he has ſent Merchant-Ships Casks to the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, to be filled with the Queen's Beer, and then ſent the ſame on Board his Cuſtomers Ships, for which Beer he paid Twenty four Shillings *per* Ton, and ſold again for Forty eight Shillings *per* Ton.

William Horſington, Under-Clerk to the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, being asked, when the Accounts of the Brew-houſe were made up? ſaid, That they were never made up in his Time, and that he had belonged to that Brew-houſe about ſix Years.

He having farther informed the Committee, That great Quantities of Beer, brewed at the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, had been ſtung into the *Thames*, being not fit to be drank; And the Committee finding, by the third Article of Inſtructions to the Commiſſioners for Victualling, That they were to take Care, among other Things, That every Guile of Twenty Tons of Iron-bound Beer, ſhall be brewed with Twenty Quarters of very good Malt, as good as generally is to be had at the Place where the ſaid Beer is brewed, and a ſufficient Quantity of very good Hops, to keep the ſame for the time of its Warranty; and Eighteen Quarters of the like Malt, with the like Quantity of the like ſort of Hops, to every Guile of Twenty Tons of Wood-bound Beer.

The Committee examined into the Quality of the Malt and Hops that had been uſed at the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe.

Mr. *Warren*, the Maſter-Miller, ſaid, That ſome time ago, he acquainted the Commiſſioners for Victualling, That great Quantities of Malt were delivered by the Contractors, and taken into the Stores, not fit for Her Majeſty's Service, and ſhewed them Samples of the ſaid Malt; and it appeared to the Committee, from the Minutes produced by the Commiſſioners, that nothing more was done upon this Complaint, than only cautioning Mr. *James*, Mr. *Horſington*, and Mr. *Overing*, (who are the Surveyors of the Malt, and the Perſons complained againſt) to take Care, that the Malt received, be in all Reſpects good and fit for the Service, and anſwerable to the Sample.

Jones, the Miller's-Mate, ſaid, There had been great Quantities of Malt uſed, not fit for Her Majeſty's Service.

Mr. *Overing*, the Maſter-Brewer, ſaid, That no Contractor for Malt or Hops could have their Bills of Payment, without Certificates from the Maſter-Brewer, Clerk of the Check, and Clerk of the Brew-houſe, of the Quality as well as Quantity of ſuch Malt or Hops. That he had often refuſed to ſign the Certificates, and complained to the Commiſſioners, that the Malt and Hops were neither anſwerable to the Sample, nor fit for Uſe; but upon the Contractors applying to the Commiſſioners, the Commiſſioners have been willing ſuch Malt and Hops ſhould be made uſe of, and then he has ſigned the Certificates.

That he perſiſted for Three Months together, in refuſing to ſign a Certificate for Fourteen Bags of Hops, delivered laſt Summer, from one *John Beel* of *Hertford*, but at laſt was ſent for by the Commiſſioners, and ordered by them to ſign the Certificate in their Preſence, notwithſtanding he then told them, as he had before, That the Hops were the worſt that he ever ſaw in his Life-time, and not fit for any Uſe.

Mr. *Coleby*, (one of the Commiſſioners) denied that the Commiſſioners ordered *Overing* to ſign the Certificate, but owned all the other Parts of the Information to be true, and acknowledged, that he did ſign that Certificate in their Preſence.

Mr. *Reynolds*, another Commiſſioner owned, That *Overing* had often made Complaint to the Board, of the Malt and Hops not being good, but that the Clerks of the Check and Brew-houſe never had made any Complaint.

Mr. *Overing* ſaid farther, That ſome Years ago, he was a Contracting-Brewer, and that by the Commiſſioners Orders, he one Year brewed Three Hundred Tons of Beer, in the hot Months of *July* and *Auguſt*, but refuſed to warrant it, becauſe Beer brewed in

thoſe

thoſe Months will ſeldom keep. A great Part of this Beer (as he fear'd it would) did prove bad, upon which the Commiſſioners ſtopt near Four hundred Pounds of his Money, which he thought a very great Injuſtice, and often repreſented the Hardſhip of his Caſe to them, but ſtill without Relief; he then petitioned the Lord-High-Treaſurer, who ordered the Commiſſioners to certifie to him a true State of the Petitioner's Caſe; but when he could not obtain that from them, after two Years Solicitation, he reſolved to petition the Houſe of Commons, and put a Petition into a Member's Hand, complaining of this hard Uſage, and offered to diſcover ſeveral Abuſes committed in the Victualling Office; upon which a Letter was ſent to him, ſigned by every one of the Commiſſioners, which Letter he produced to the Committee, deſiring him to come to them the next Morning; he accordingly went, and they immediately paid him the Money, and Mr. *Croger* the Maſter-Brewer being ſoon after turned out for Miſdemeanors, he was put into his Place.

Mr. *Coleby* owned, *Overing* was paid the Money, without making any Report to the Lord-Treaſurer.

Mr. *Ambroſe Page*, a Contracting-Brewer, ſaid, That about the ſixth of *June* laſt, a Purſer came to him with an Order for Forty Tons of Beer, but took but Fifteen Tons, the reſt he paid a Compoſition for, at the Rate of Thirty Shillings *per* Ton; then the Purſer gave him a Receipt for the whole Forty Tons of Beer being delivered on Board.

That he has ſeveral times dealt in this manner, and often returns old Casks good for nothing, in lieu of the Queen's new Casks delivered to him upon his Contracts.

That he is paid Freight for the Beer he buys of the Purſers, as well as what is really ſent on Ship-board; That the Maſter-Brewer of the *Hart's-Horn* always certifies for the Quality, and the Clerk for the Quantity of Beer delivered, which they generally do, without ever coming to his Brew-houſe.

Mr. *Graham*, who manages for Mr. *Walraven* and Mr. *Coppleſtone*, ſaid, That in *June* laſt, he contracted for Two hundred Tons of Beer, at Fifty ſeven Shillings *per* Ton; That he delivered but One hundred and Sixty three Tons, and has the remaining Thirty ſeven Tons of Casks now in his Maſters Brew-houſe.

That in *July* laſt, the Purſer of the *Pool* Ship would have had him paid him Thirty Shillings *per* Ton, for the Remainder of his Contract, and he would undertake to get him Bills for the Whole; but he having acquainted his Maſters therewith, they refuſed the Offer; upon which he was diſcharged from Brewing the Remainder of the Beer contracted for. He farther ſaid, that he has often deſired the Commiſſioners to order the remaining Casks to be ſent for, which they always promiſed ſhould be done, but they have never yet been ſent for; that his Maſters have loſt the ſerving ſeveral private Ships, becauſe they could be ſerved cheaper at the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe.

Mr. *Ebenezer Wild*, Brewer, ſaid, That he has bought the Queen's Beer of *Bray* the Water-man, and of Purſers of Ships, for Twenty Shillings *per* Ton, and has ſold the ſame Beer again to the Queen for Fifty ſeven and Fifty eight Shillings *per* Ton.

Mr. *Henry Raine* ſaid, That in *May* and *June* laſt, he contracted with the Commiſſioners for Victualling, for One hundred and Eighty Tons of Beer, at Fifty ſeven and Fifty eight Shillings *per* Ton; that he delivered but Seventy Tons of Beer, and compounded with Purſers of Ships for the Remainder at Twenty eight Shillings and Thirty Shillings *per* Ton, *viz.*

	Ton	*Hogſ.*	*Gall.*
Mr. *Lowtch*, Purſer of the *Royal-Anne-Galley*, for	20	00	00
Purſer of the *Swifture*	15	01	25
Of the *Sea-Fire*	21	00	07
Of the *Edgar*	30	03	41
Of Mr. *Read*, Purſer of the *Swallow*	13	01	06
Of the *Mary*-Tranſport	8	00	00
	110	00	00

That he has generally returned his own Casks that were old and uſeleſs, and among them ſeveral *Spaniſh* Casks, in lieu of the Queen's new Casks, which were received by one Mr. *Vincent*, at the Wharf, without any Objection.

That once he returned ſome new Casks, that had never been wetted, which though obſerved by the Cooper, no farther Notice was taken of it; that he has made uſe of the Queen's Casks in his own Trade, having firſt altered the Bungs and thoſe Staves that have the Queen's Mark.

That the Maſter-Brewer, and Clerk, have certified the Quality, and Quantity of his Beer, without any Inſpection; that he ought to draw but Six Barrels Three Firkins from a Quarter of Malt, but that he, and other Brewers, did draw Ten Barrels, and put Wormwood into the Liquor, inſtead of Hops.

Mr. *Stibbs*, Brewer, ſaid, That meeting one Day with Mr. *Horſington*, Under-Clerk to the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, the ſaid *Horſington* asked him what Quantity of Beer he had delivered on his laſt Contract? he told him the Quantity; *Horſington* replied, he was a Fool, and did not underſtand his own Buſineſs, he had delivered Twenty five Tons more than was mentioned; and gave him a Certificate for the ſaid Twenty five Tons, telling him, that he muſt pay the Purſer for it; he accordingly then paid *Horſington* Six Pounds in Part for the ſaid Twenty five Tons, but that Yeſterday *Horſington* came to him, and brought him the Six Pounds, begging he would ſay nothing of it to the Committee.

He farther ſaid, That he had great Quantities of the Queen's Casks, which were delivered to him upon Contracts, and that he has converted ſeveral to his own Uſe, having firſt altered the Bungs and thoſe Staves that had the Queen's Mark.

Mr. *Horſington* ſaid, he only borrowed the Six Pounds of Mr. *Stibbs*, but owned that he did give him a Certificate for the Twenty five Tons of Beer, though he told him at the ſame time, that he had not delivered that Beer.

Mr. *Bridgar*, a Cooper, ſaid, he knew that great Quantities of the Queen's Casks were imbezzled, and that within this Week he ſaw Ten Tons of the Queen's Casks at Sir *Charles Cox*'s of *Southwark*.

The Committee examined how the Contracting Brewers of the Out-Ports had performed their Contracts, and it appeared to the Committee, from an Account delivered in by the Commiſſioners for Victualling, That Mr. *Ridge* and Mr. *Dixon* of *Portſmouth* had Bills made out for 8217 Tons of Beer, pretended to be delivered for the laſt Year's Service. It appeared from the Exciſe Vouchers, they had brewed in that time no more than 4482 Tons; ſo that they had Bills for 3735 Tons more than was really delivered.

Mr. *Ridge* ſaid, That he contracted in Partnerſhip with Mr. *Dixon* for 2704 Tons. That he did not know how that Beer was diſpoſed of, the Account being kept by Mr. *Dixon*; but acknowledged, That 5513 Tons was on his own particular Account, and that he had delivered but 3213 Tons, the remaining 2300 Tons he paid a Compoſition for to Purſers, at the Rate of Thirty Shillings *per* Ton, that he had Fifty ſix Shillings *per* Ton of the Queen for that Beer, in which was included Two Shillings *per* Ton for Charge of Shipping, and had likewiſe allowed him Four Shillings *per* Ton for making and trimming Casks for the whole 8217 Tons, he being the Queen's Cooper at *Portſmouth*.

The Committee computed the Loſs to the Queen, in the 2300 Tons of Beer, which Mr. *Ridge* owned were not delivered, and is as followeth.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
2300 Tons of Beer, at Fifty ſix Shillings *per* Ton	6440	00	00
Cooperage, Four Shillings *per* Ton	460	00	00
2300 Tons of Casks, (beſides Cooperage) coſt	4700	00	00

Which Casks, for what appeared to the Committee, might be ſunk, as well as the Beer. The Committee computed, in the ſame manner, the Loſs to the Queen, in the 1435 Tons of Beer undelivered of Mr. *Ridge*'s Contract, in Partnerſhip with Mr. *Dixon*, *viz.*

1435 Tons of Beer	4018	00	00
Cooperage	287	00	00
1435 Tons of Casks, beſides Cooperage	2941	15	00
Loſs in the whole, if the Casks are ſunk, is	18846	15	00

Mr. *Ridge* ſaid, in Juſtification of himſelf, That he muſt have been a great Loſer by his Contract, had it not been for Compounding in this manner with the Purſers: That it was a very common Practice, and that he had a Regard to the Advantage he might have by it, when he made the laſt Contract, otherwiſe he could not have contracted at the Price he did.

Mr. *Coleby* ſaid, The Commiſſioners for Victualling allow of no ſuch Practice; That the Terms of the Contract were firſt propoſed by Mr. *Ridge*, Mr. *Dixon*, and Mr. *Player*; And produced a Letter, ſigned by thoſe Three, dated the 16th of *September*, 1709; which is as follows.

Honoured

Honoured SIRS,

" MR. *Wilkins* having acquainted us, That he received your Directions, to ſignify " your Deſire of Treating with us, for the Brewing of Beer another Year, " for Her Majeſty's Service, from *Michaelmas* next.

" We have accordingly conſidered of it, and are willing to furniſh you, as uſual, for " the entire Demand of the Port, *viz.* Sea-Beer at Fifty ſix Shillings *per* Ton, and " for Harbour-Beer Forty ſix Shillings *per* Ton, clear of all Charges on board: We " have put both at the loweſt Rates we can afford to brew for; And when your " Honours have conſidered the Price of Grain, *&c.* and the great Diſcount there is " upon our Bills, you will not think it too much.

Mr. *Wilkins* ſaid, That he had been Agent-Victualler at *Portſmouth* about Six Years; That he had no Inſtructions from the Commiſſioners for Victualling, till Eighteen Months after he was ſent down thither; That he certifies for the Quantity and Quality of all Beer ſhipt there, tho' he does not ſee it; it being impoſſible for him to inſpect it, from the Multiplicity of Buſineſs; That he never examines any Account Mr. *Ridge* brings him, any farther than to ſee the Figures are caſt up right; and that there is no Check to prevent Mr. *Ridge* imbezzling the Queen's Hoops, Staves, or Casks, if he ſhould be inclined to imbezzle them; That Mr. *Ridge*'s Brother is the Officer that gages the Casks at *Portſmouth*.

It appeared to the Committee, from the Accounts delivered in from the Commiſſioners for Victualling, That Mr. *Player* had Bills made out for 7724 Tons of Beer, pretended to be delivered for the laſt Year's Service.

It appear'd by the Exciſe-Vouchers, That he had brewed in that time no more than 4164 Tons; ſo that he had Bills for 3560 Tons more than was really delivered.

The Committee computed the Loſs to the Queen, in the 3560 Tons of Beer undelivered, of Mr. *Player*'s Contract;

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
3560 Tons of Beer, at Fifty ſix Shillings *per* Ton	9968	0	0
Cooperage, Four Shillings *per* Ton	712	0	0
3560 Tons of Cask, beſides Cooperage, coſt	7298	0	0
Loſs of the Whole, if the Casks are ſunk, is	17978	0	0

It appeared to the Committee, by the Account delivered in by the Commiſſioners for Victualling, That Mr. *Rolfe*, of *Harwich*, had Bills made out for 2782 Tons of Beer, pretended to be delivered for the laſt Year's Service; it appeared from the Exciſe-Vouchers, he had brewed in that time no more than 1102 Tons; ſo that he had Bills made out for 1680 Tons more than was really delivered.

The Committee computed the Loſs to the Queen, in the 1680 Tons undelivered, of Mr. *Rolfe*'s Contract, *viz.*

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
1680 Tons of Beer, at Fifty four Shillings *per* Ton	4536	0	0
1680 Tons of Casks, at Forty five Shillings	3780	0	0
Loſs in the Whole, if the Casks are ſunk, is	8316	0	0

Mr *Beſt*, Brewer at *Chatham*, ſaid, That he contracted, the laſt Year, to brew 455 Tons of Beer, at Fifty Shillings *per* Ton; that he delivered but 331 Tons, the Remainder he paid a Compoſition for to the Purſers, but had Bills made out for the whole 455 Tons.

The Committee computed the Loſs to the Queen, in the 124 Tons of Beer undelivered, of Mr. *Beſt*'s Contract;

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
124 Tons of Beer, at Fifty Shillings *per* Ton	310	0	0
124 Tons of Casks, at Forty five Shillings *per* Ton, coſt	279	0	0
Loſs of the Whole, if the Casks are ſunk, is	589	0	0

Mr. *Tyhurſt*, Brewer, at *Rocheſter*, ſaid, That he contracted, the laſt Year, to brew 883 Tons of Beer, at Fifty Shillings *per* Ton; That he delivered but 126 Tons: The Remainder he paid a Compoſition for to the Purſers, at the Rate of Thirty Shillings *per* Ton, but had Bills made out for the whole 883 Tons.

The

The Committee computed the Loſs to the Queen, in the 757 Tons of Beer not delivered, of Mr. *Tyhurſt*'s Contract;

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
757 Tons of Beer, at Fifty Shillings *per* Ton	1892	10	0
757 Tons of Casks, at Forty five Shillings *per* Ton, coſt	1703	5	0
Loſs in the whole, if the Casks are ſunk, is	3595	15	0

Mr. *Kelley*, Brewer at *Deal*, ſaid, That he contracted, the laſt Year, to brew 1424 Tons of Beer at Fifty Shillings *per* Ton; That he delivered but 202 Tons: The Remainder he paid a Compoſition for to the Purſers, at the Rate of Thirty Shillings and Thirty one Shillings *per* Ton; but had Bills made out for the whole 1424 Tons; And that he was allowed Two Shillings and Six Pence *per* Ton for trimming of Casks, Two Shillings *per* Ton for Charge of Shipping, and Six Pence *per* Ton for bringing empty Casks aſhore. He farther ſaid, That Capt. *Whitehall*, the Agent-Victualler at *Dover*, was privy to theſe Compoſitions, and had been ſo for three or four Years; and that he had ſometimes Three Shillings, ſometimes Four Shillings *per* Ton, according as the Diſcount was upon the Victualling Bills, for himſelf; and his Clerk had One Shilling for every Ton of Beer thus compounded for; and, That the ſaid Capt. *Whitehall* diſpenſed with his ſwearing to the Delivery of the Beer, as he uſed formerly to do.

Captain *Whitehall* denied the whole Accuſation, and ſaid, That *Kelley* had made *Affidavits* before him, of the Delivery of the whole 1424 Tons, (he having Power from the Court of *Exchequer* to adminiſter an Oath) which *Affidavits* were produced by the Commiſſioners for Victualling, and they appeared to the Committee to be ſigned by *Kelley*.

Kerby ſaid, He had heard *Kelley* ſwear, before Capt. *Whitehall*, to the Quality of the Beer, but cou'd not ſay he had to the Quantity.

Millington, Capt. *Whitehall*'s Man, ſaid, That he has ſeveral times been ſent for a Bible, when *Kelley* was with his Maſter, which he has given into *Kelley*'s Hand, but could not ſay, he ever ſaw him kiſs the Book.

Kelley being again examined, averred, That all he had ſaid before to the Committee was true; and ſaid, That tho' his Hand was to the *Affidavits*, yet he never took any Oath before Capt. *Whitehall*; That Capt. *Whitehall* always certifyed to the Commiſſioners, That he did ſwear to the Quantity of Beer delivered, without his taking any Oath; That it was for diſpenſing with his Oath, that he agreed to pay *Whitehall* the Money.

That before this Agreement, he always ſwore to the Quantity of Beer delivered, before a Juſtice of the Peace.

Thomas Low, Mr. *Kelley*'s Servant, ſaid, He once brought ſeveral *Affidavits* from Capt. *Whitehall*, ready ſigned by the ſaid *Whitehall*, to his Maſter at *Canterbury*, for his Maſter to ſet his Hand to; Which, when he had done, were returned back to Capt. *Whitehall*, to be ſent up to the Commiſſioners for Victualling.

Capt. *Whitehall* being asked, How long he had been Agent-Victualler at *Dover*? ſaid, About Eight Years; but that he had no Inſtructions from the Commiſſioners for Victualling, till Four Years after he had been ſent thither.

The Committee computed the Loſs to the Queen, in the 1222 Tons of Beer undelivered, of Mr. *Kelley*'s Contract;

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
1222 Tons of Beer, at Fifty Shillings *per* Ton	3055	0	0
Trimming, Shipping, &c. Five Shillings *per* Ton	305	10	0
1222 Tons of Casks, at Forty five Shillings *per* Ton, coſt	2749	10	0
Loſs in the whole, if the Casks are ſunk, is	6110	0	0

Loſt, as before, upon the Contracts, with	Mr. *Ridge* and *Dixon*	18846	15	0
	Mr. *Player*	17978	0	0
	Mr. *Rolfe*	8316	0	0
	Mr. *Beſt*	589	0	0
	Mr. *Tyhurſt*	3595	15	0
	Mr. *Kelley*	6110	0	0
	In all	55435	10	0

Ordered,
That the ſaid Report be taken into Conſideration upon to Morrow ſe'night.

Jovis

Jovis 15. *die Feb.* 1710.

THE Houſe proceeded to take into Conſideration the Report from the Committee, who were appointed to enquire into the Abuſes of the Victualling: And the Report was read.

Reſolved, Nemine Contradicente,

That it appears to this Houſe, That in the Management of Her Majeſty's Brewhouſe, as well as in the Contracts for furniſhing the Navy with Beer, there have been many notorious Embezzlements, and ſcandalous Abuſes, to the defrauding the Publick of great Sums of Money, and to the Injury and Diſcouragement of the Seamen.

Ordered,

That the Commiſſioners of Victualling have a Copy of the ſaid Report.

After which, Mr. *Ridge* was heard in his Place to the Matter of the Report relating to him; And then he withdrew.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That *Thomas Ridge*, Eſq; a Member of this Houſe, is guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh Five thouſand five hundred and thirteen Tons of Beer upon his own Account, and Two thouſand ſeven hundred and four Tons of Beer in Partnerſhip with Mr. *Dixon*, and having received Bills for the whole, altho' he delivered but Three thouſand two hundred and thirteen Tons on the firſt, and but One thouſand two hundred ſixty nine upon the latter Contract.

Reſolved,

That the ſaid *Thomas Ridge*, Eſq; be, for the ſaid Frauds and Abuſes, expelled this Houſe.

Reſolved,

That an humble Addreſs be preſented to Her Majeſty, That She will be pleaſed to give Direction to Her Attorney-General, to proſecute the ſaid Mr. *Ridge* for the ſaid Frauds and Abuſes.

Ordered,

That the ſaid Addreſs be preſented to Her Majeſty by ſuch Members of this Houſe, as are of Her Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy-Council.

Ordered,

That the farther Conſideration of the ſaid Report be adjourned until *Tueſday* Morning next.

Ordered,

That Mr. *Joſeph Nutt* do attend this Houſe upon *Tueſday* Morning next.

Ordered,

That the Commiſſioners of the Victualling, and their Secretary, do attend this Houſe upon *Tueſday* Morning next.

Martis 20. *die Feb.* 1710.

Ordered,

THAT the Report from the Committee, appointed to enquire into the Abuſes of the Victualling, be taken into farther Conſideration on *Thurſday* Morning next; and that the Commiſſioners of the Victualling, and ſuch other Perſons as were ordered to attend this Day, do then attend this Houſe.

Jovis 22. *die Feb.* 1710.

THE Houſe being informed, That the Commiſſioners of the Victualling attended (according to Order) they were called in, and at the Bar preſented to the Houſe their Repreſentation upon the Report made by the Committee appointed to examine the Abuſes complained of in the Victualling; and then they withdrew.

And the Title of the Repreſentation was read.

Ordered,

That the ſaid Repreſentation do lie upon the Table, to be peruſed by the Members of the Houſe.

Ordered,

That the Report from the Committee, who were to enquire into the Abuſes of the Victualling, be taken into farther Conſideration on *Tueſday* Morning next; And that all Perſons, who were ordered to attend this Day, do then attend this Houſe.

Martis 27. *die Feb.* 1710.

THE Houſe reſumed the farther Conſideration of the Report from the Committee appointed to enquire into the Abuſes of the Victualling.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Dixon*, a Brewer at *Portſmouth*, is Guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh 2704 Tons of Beer for the laſt Year's Service, in Partnerſhip with Mr. *Ridge*, and receiving Bills for the Whole, when he had delivered but 1269 Tons.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Player*, another Brewer at *Portſmouth*, is Guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh 7724 Tons of Beer for the laſt Year's Service, and receiving Bills for the Whole, when he had delivered but 4164 Tons.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Rolfe*, a Brewer at *Harwich*, is Guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh 2782 Tons of Beer for the laſt Year's Service, and receiving Bills for the Whole, when he had delivered but 1102 Tons.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Beſt*, a Brewer at *Chatham*, is Guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh 455 Tons of Beer for the laſt Year's Service, and receiving Bills for the Whole, when he had delivered but 331 Tons.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Tyburſt*, a Brewer of *Rocheſter*, is Guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh 883 Tons of Beer for the laſt Year's Service, and receiving Bills for the Whole, when he had delivered but 126 Tons.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Kelly*, a Brewer of *Deal*, is Guilty of great Frauds and Abuſes, in having contracted to furniſh 1424 Tons of Beer for the laſt Year's Service, and receiving Bills for the Whole, when he had delivered but 202 Tons.

Reſolved,

That an humble Addreſs be preſented to Her Majeſty, That She will be pleaſed to give Directions to Her Attorney-General to proſecute the ſaid Mr. *Dixon*, Mr. *Player*, Mr. *Rolfe*, Mr. *Beſt*, Mr. *Tyburſt*, and Mr. *Kelly*, for the ſaid Frauds and Abuſes.

Ordered,

That the ſaid Addreſs be preſented to Her Majeſty, by ſuch Members of this Houſe, as are of Her Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy-Council.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Captain *Whitehall*, Agent-Victualler at *Dover*, is Guilty of a great Miſdemeanor, in diſpenſing with Mr. *Kelley*'s Swearing to the Affidavits for Delivery of Beer, and in being privy to the Frauds and Abuſes committed by the ſaid Mr. *Kelley*.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Wilkins*, Agent-Victualler at *Portſmouth*, is Guilty of a great Miſdemeanor, in certifying the Delivery of much greater Quantities of Beer, than were delivered.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That *Stephen Moxley*, Servant at the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, is Guilty of a great Crime, in being privy to the imbezzling great Quantities of Beer and Casks.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That Mr. *Horſington*, Under-Clerk at the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, is Guilty of a great Miſdemeanor, in giving Mr. *Stibbs* a Certificate to defraud the Queen of 25 Tons of Beer.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That *Noah Overing*, Maſter-Brewer, *Bernard Goddard*, deceaſed, late Clerk of the Brew-houſe, and *Thomas Fames*, Clerk of the Check at the *Hart's-Horn* Brew-houſe, have been Guilty of very great Miſdemeanors, in ſigning Certificates for great Quantities of Malt and Hops, which were neither anſwerable to the Sample, nor fit for Uſe.

Then

Then the Repreſentation of the Commiſſioners of Victualling, which they had delivered in upon the ſaid Report, was read.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That the Commiſſioners for the Victualling of Her Majeſty's Navy, have been Guilty of great Negligence and Remiſſneſs in their Duty; And that the Loſs the Publick has ſuſtained by the many Frauds and Abuſes that have been committed in the Victualling of Her Majeſty's Navy, has been chiefly occaſioned by a notorious Miſmanagement in that Office.

Reſolved,

That it appears to this Houſe, That the ſaid Frauds and Abuſes have been one great Occaſion of the heavy Debt that lies upon the Navy.

Reſolved,

That the Perſons who have been Inſtrumental in Diſcovering the ſaid Frauds and Abuſes, have well deſerved Her Majeſty's Reward and Encouragement.

BY Virtue of an Order of the Houſe of Commons, *I do appoint* Samuel Keble *and* Henry Clements *to Print this Report, with the Reſolutions and Orders thereupon; And that no other Perſon preſume to Print the ſame.*

W. BROMLEY, *Speaker.*

FINIS.

(*Price Six Pence.*)

Then the Representation of the Commissioners of Victualling, which they had delivered in upon the said Report, was read.

Resolved,

That it appears to this House, That the Commissioners for the Victualling of His Majesty's Navy, have been Guilty of Great Negligence and Irregularities in their Duty: And that the Publick has sustained by the many Frauds and Abuses that have been committed in the Victualling of Her Majesty's Navy, but been chiefly occasioned by a notorious Mismanagement in that Office.

Resolved,

That it appears to this House, That the said Frauds and Abuses have been one great Occasion of the heavy Debt that lies upon the Navy.

Resolved,

That the Petitions do have been Instrumental in Discovering the said Frauds and Abuses, have well deserved Her Majesty's Reward and Encouragement.

By Virtue of an Order of the House of Commons, I do appoint Samuel Keble and Henry Clements to Print this Report, with the Resolutions and Orders thereupon; And that no other Person presume to Print the same.

W. Bromley, Speaker.

FINIS.

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